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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01501 300810Z
ACTION EA-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (KENNEDY, EDWARD M.)
SUBJECT: SENATOR KENNEDY'S VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: 77 TOKYO 19660

1. DURING HIS FOUR DAY STAY IN JAPAN, JAN. 9-13, SENATOR KENNEDY HAD SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH VIRTUALLY EVERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY AND ATTRACTED EXTENSIVE AND HIGHLY FAVORABLE MEDIA COVERAGE. (WITH FEW MINOR CHANGES, SCHEDULE CONTAINED REFTEL WAS ADHERED TO.) PERSISTENT THEME FROM OPENING DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUTHFUL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN KYOTO TO FINAL MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN'S LARGEST PRIVATE SECTOR LABOR UNION WAS US-JAPAN TRADE AND STEPS BOTH NATIONS MUST TAKE TO COPE WITH GROWING IMBALANCE. THROUGHOUT HIS THREE DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH LEADERS, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, TOKYO AND OSAKA BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES AND MEDIA, HE ELOQUENTLY STATED US POSITION, REINFORCING STR STRAUSS IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS THEN UNDERWAY WITH MINISTER USHIBA. SENATOR'S SPEECH AT FOREIGN CORRES-PONDENTS CLUB CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THIS EFFORT AND TO GREATER JAPANESE UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL ISSUES FACING AMERICAN LEGISLATORS. AT SAME TIME, THROUGH HIS MEETINGS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS, HE CAREFULLY UNDERLINED IM-PORTANCE US ATTACHES TO OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP AND VITAL
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NECESSITY FOR CLOSEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN RESOLVING OUR PROBLEMS. SENATOR'S STATEMENT AT CONCLUSION OF TRADE TALKS HELPED TO REASSURE JAPANESE THAT THEY WERE MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION, WHILE EMPHASIZING NEED FOR FURTHER CONSTRUCTIVE MEASURES.

2. SENATOR'S SPEECH IN HIROSHIMA AND VISITS TO CENOTAPH

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AND RADIATION EFFECTS RESEARCH LABORATORY UNDERLINED HIS DEDICATION TO CONTROL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TO RATIONAL PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. THEY WERE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE CITIZENS OF HIROSHIMA AND GAVE SUBSTANTIAL BOOST TO EFFORTS OF LABORATORY. SENATOR WAS GREETED BY FREINDLY AND ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS THROUGHOUT HIS STAY, ESPECIALLY AT LDP HEADQUARTERS AND HIS CALL ON SOKA GAKKAI PRESIDENT DAISAKU IKEDA. HIS THREE TELEVISION INTERVIEWS WERE CARRIED ON NATIONWIDE NETWORKS AND CONVEYED IMAGE OF DEDICATION, KNOWLEDGE AND REASONABLENESS.
MANSFIELD

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